

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-11 (cancelled).

12. (amended) A method for ~~erecting~~ fostering coopertition ~~and gracious professionalism among students while inspiring an appreciation of science and technology during a contest played on a playing field with a plurality of robots, wherein the contest requires demonstration of skill in accomplishing repetitively a physical task.~~ the method comprising:

~~providing establishing a contest played on a playing field with at least four robots, such robots designed and built with participation of such students, such contest requiring accomplishment repetitively of~~ containing a plurality of different surfaces and a plurality of objects required to perform a designated physical task on the playing field, wherein:

(i) each robot is providing a first robot controlled by a first distinct team of students and located on the playing field, wherein the first robot is designed to repetitively accomplish a the physical task, performance of which on the playing field by the first a given robot triggering attribution to the first team to of a raw score based on frequency of achievement of the physical task by the first given robot; and

(ii) the contest is conducted in matches between two competing alliances of the teams, each match including a plurality of teams from each alliance;

~~providing a second robot controlled by a second team and located on the playing field, wherein the second robot is designed to repetitively accomplish a physical task, performance of which by the second robot triggering attribution to the second team of a raw score based on frequency of achievement of the physical task by the second robot;~~

~~providing a third robot controlled by a third team and located on the playing field, wherein the third robot is designed to repetitively accomplish a physical task, performance of~~

which by the third robot triggering attribution to the third team of a raw score based on frequency of achievement of the physical task by the third robot;

----- providing a fourth robot controlled by a fourth team and located on the playing field; wherein the fourth robot is designed to repetitively accomplish a physical task; performance of which by the fourth robot triggering attribution to the fourth team of a raw score based on frequency of achievement of the physical task by the fourth robot;

conducting at least two heats such that two teams are on the playing field at a time and all teams play once;

assigning a raw score after each heat match to each alliance of the teams competing in the heat based on frequency of achievement of the task by robots of each such team in each such alliance;

determining a final score for a winning alliance designated team in each heat match, such designated team winning alliance having a raw score exceeding the raw score of the other team alliance on the playing field at the same time as the designated team, by enhancing the raw score of the designated team winning alliance by a function of the raw score of the other team alliance, so that the designated team winning alliance is thus motivated to cause the other team alliance to achieve a high raw score, and the teams of each alliance must work cooperatively;

setting a final score for the other team alliance in each heat match equal to the raw score achieved by that team alliance; and

ranking the four teams based on the final scores achieved in matches in which they participate;

so that the students, by engaging in the contest, are provided with an experience involving science and technology under processes as recited herein that motivate cooperation in the midst of competition for a highest final score on the playing field wherein the team with the highest final score is ranked first and the remaining teams are ranked by final points in descending order;

designating the first ranked team as the contest winner; and

displaying the contest winner.

Application 10/751,166
Response to Office Action Dated December 15, 2006

13-15. (cancelled)